Message Text

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ORIGIN EB-11

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 IO-13 ADP-00 AID-20 CEA-02 CIAE-00

COME-00 FRB-02 INR-10 NSAE-00 RSC-01 CIEP-02 STR-08

TRSE-00 LAB-06 SIL-01 OMB-01 AGR-20 EA-11 NEA-10

OPIC-12 L-03 /159 R

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P R 162300Z AUG 73 FM SECSTATE WASHDC TO USMISSION EC BRUSSELS PRIORITY INFO ALL OECD CAPITALS USMISSION GENEVA

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E.O. 11652: N/A TAGS: ETRD, EC, US

SUBJECT: WINE--STANDARD BOTTLE SIZES FOR USE IN

INTERNATIONAL TRADE

1. MISSION IS REQUESTED TO APPROACH EC COMMISSION AT APPROPRIATE LEVEL TO MAKE FOLLOWING POINTS ON USG ATTITUDE TOWARD WINE BOTTLE SIZES FOR USE IN INTERNATIONAL TRADE. SINCE ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING REFERRED TO BELOW TAKES PLACE AUGUST 20, APPROACH SHOULD BE MADE BY THEN, IF POSSIBLE.

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2. THE US, AS A MAJOR WINE-CONSUMING AND PRODUCING NATION,

HAS BEEN CONCERNED FOR SOME TIME WITH PROBLEM OF PROLIFERATION OF BOTTLE SIZES IN WHICH ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES, INCLUDING WINE, ARE IMPORTED INTO US. THE LARGE NUMBER OF SIZES INVOLVED HAVE CAUSED PROBLEMS RELATED TO ENFORCEMENT AND ARE A POTENTIAL SOURCE OF CONFUSION TO CONSUMERS.

3. USG IS AWARE THIS PROBLEM HAS BEEN UNDER DISCUSSION FOR SOME TIME AMONG ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGE TRADE ASSOCIATIONS AND ATTENTION HAS BEEN GIVEN TO THE IDEA OF ESTABLISHING A SET OF STANDARD METRIC SIZES FOR USE IN INTERNATIONAL TRADE IN WINE. THE AMERICAN WINE INSTITUTE, THROUGH ITS GENERAL COUNSEL, MR. JEFFERSON E. PEYSER, HAS TAKEN AN ACTIVE PART IN THESE DISCUSSIONS. AS THE MISSION KNOWS,

THE WINE INSTITUTE HAS EVOLVED A SET OF SIX METRIC SIZES WHICH IT STATES WOULD MEET BOTH ECONOMIC CONSIDERATIONS OF MARKETING AND THE NEED FOR CONSUMER PROTECTION. THESE SIZES ARE:

.093 L

.187 L

.375 L

.75 L

1.50 L

3.00 L

THE US SEES MERIT IN THE IDEA OF STANDARDIZING BOTTLE SIZES FOR USE IN INTERNATIONAL TRADE AND WOULD HAVE NO OBJECTION TO THESE PROPOSED SIZES.

4. IT IS OUR UNDERSTANDING THAT THE QUESTION OF BOTTLE SIZES FOR INTERNATIONAL TRADE IN WINE WILL BE DISCUSSED AT A FORTHCOMING MEETING OF THE ADVISORY COMMITTEE TO THE EC. THE WINE INSTITUTE WILL BE REPRESENTED BY MR. PEYSER AT THAT MEETING AND USG HOPES WINE INSTITUTE'S PROPOSALS WILL BE THOROUGHLY CONSIDERED AT THAT MEETING. USG HOPES THAT SOME AGREEMENT SATISFACTORY TO ALL CAN BE WORKED OUT AND IS WILLING TO CONSULT AT ANY TIME WITH COMMISSION TO HELP WORK ONE OUT.

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5. MISSION REQUESTED TO REPORT EC REACTION, IF ANY. ROGERS

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